

NID 84-138 JX

6/13/84

INDIA: Growing Sikh Opposition

[REDACTED] rumors among Sikhs that Army troops looted the temple complex at Amritsar and that Sikh casualties greatly exceeded official counts. Speculation is increasing that President Zail Singh may resign under pressure from his fellow Sikhs. Two Sikh members of Parliament have already resigned, some Sikh senior civil servants are absent without leave, and several Sikh military officers and civilians have returned their government awards to protest the Army assault. [REDACTED]

Comment: The President's resignation would undermine Prime Minister Gandhi's claim that Punjab is returning to normal. Singh or the Sikhs who have resigned from Parliament might take the lead in organizing opposition to the government among moderate Sikhs, [REDACTED]